

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following amended paragraph:

[0033] To ~~weld~~ stretch a joint between a balloon and a catheter shaft the machine is set into the home position and the jaw gaps set to an appropriate distance for the application. The distal end of the balloon is placed between the ends of the jaws (10, 11) with the extended tip between the jaws of the moving slide (7) and the jaws (10, 11) are activated to clamp the product. The machine is then started and allowed to cycle. The jaws (10) on the moving slide (7) travel away from the fixed jaws (11) to produce the necking process. The machine automatically stops when it has travelled the appropriate distance. The jaws are released, the product removed and the machine reset.